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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Turkey's EU report excitement - Sabah  
Turkey's historic appointment with EU - Hurriyet  
Turkey a significant opportunity for EU - Hurriyet  
EU Commission: No special conditions for Turkey - Sabah  
EU may put forward last-minute conditions - Aksam  
Straw discusses Kirkuk with Talabani - Turkiye  
Oil prices set new record high: \$51 - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

EU Turkey report a 'Sword of Damocles' - Cumhuriyet  
FM Gul: Negative Turkey decision will be bad for EU - Radikal  
PM Erdogan: Turkey did homework; now EU to be tested - Zaman  
Jack Straw's surprise northern Iraq visit - Cumhuriyet  
International community deaf to Palestine - Cumhuriyet  
Iran develops 2,000 km range missiles - Zaman  
Rafsanjani: US won't dare to attack Iran - Yeni Safak  
Most Guantanamo detainees to be released - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

EU-Turkey: The European Commission's progress report on Turkey will recommend membership no earlier than 2014 and continuing measures against the free movement of Turkish workers in Europe. The EU's incoming enlargement chief, Olli Rehn, said that Ankara should be monitored more closely on human rights, and added that Turkey might face permanent restrictions on the free movement of its workers if Turkey joins the European bloc. Ankara will have to recognize the Greek Cypriot government, and talks may be suspended at any time if Turkey violates human rights. Negotiations may be open-ended, with no guarantee concerning the final result. Commission President Romano Prodi said the EU must be sure that human rights are respected. 'This is our approach with Turkey, just as we did with all other accession negotiations,' Prodi stressed. Some papers predict that the earliest realistic date for Turkey's entry to the EU would be 2018. The Commission's report is still expected to recommend that EU leaders begin accession talks with Turkey without delay. Although the report underlines the fact that Turkey has achieved significant legislative progress in many areas, it notes several problem areas, including full implementation of fundamental freedoms and respect for human rights, corruption, and the need to strengthen policies to address torture. PM Erdogan said Tuesday before flying to Strasbourg for talks with European parliamentarians that he believed the positive steps Turkey has taken will be evaluated properly. Turkish dailies expect the EU report will not recommend a date for starting talks, but rather leave that 'sensitive' decision to EU political leaders. The Commission is due to announce its recommendation on Wednesday afternoon at a press conference in Brussels.

Ambassador Edelman discusses Iraqi security with the MFA: US Ambassador Eric Edelman paid a surprise call on the undersecretary for foreign affairs to discuss the security situation in Iraq. The visit took place following criticism by President Sezer of US 'ineffectiveness' against the PKK presence in northern Iraq. Edelman discussed with the MFA measures against terrorist infiltration from northern Iraq into Turkey, and the evacuation of the Mahmur refugee camp in the Kandil mountains, according to "Hurriyet."

Osman Ocalan on PKK, US, Iraq: Osman Ocalan, brother of the imprisoned PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, told "Yeni Safak" that there had been several recent meetings between US civilian and military officials and representatives of PKK/Kongra-Gel. 'We support the US intervention in Iraq in the belief that it will provide historic opportunities for the region,' Ocalan said. 'However,' he continued, 'we

don't approve all actions by the Americans, and advise them to cooperate with democratic forces in the region.' Ocalan acknowledged that the PKK has lost its effectiveness, and voiced his expectation that significant changes would take place in the Kurdish movement by next spring. The AK Party approach to the Kurds has been 'flexible and positive, but not sufficient,' Ocalan noted. He emphasized that the PKK will be disbanded as Turkey's EU process moves forward. Ocalan said that it was in the interests of Kurds to have friendly relations with the Americans. 'With the Americans, we can find a solution to the Kurdish problem,' he said. Ocalan added that he expected some groups within the AKP and CHP to seize the opportunity created by the growing desire of the Kurdish people for a political solution to the Kurdish problem.

US to use 'new' weapon in Iraq: Papers claim that US forces in Iraq will be mounting 'microwave' weapons on US armored vehicles by early next year, and on jetfighters by 2009. A new weapon developed after 25 years of research at the Wright-Patterson Airbase directs high-intensity microwaves at the target, causing unendurable pain and a burning sensation by rapidly heating subcutaneous water molecules. The US plans to use the weapon in urban warfare and against anti-American demonstrations, papers report.

Gul receives Iraqi ambassador: FM Abdullah Gul received the newly-appointed Iraqi Ambassador to Turkey, Sabah Jameil Umran, on Tuesday. Umran told the press after the meeting that the two men discussed the presence of the PKK in northern Iraq and the security of Turkish drivers entering Iraq. Umran added that a withdrawal by Turkish companies from Iraq will bring no solution to the problems there. He pledged additional measures to ensure the security of Turks working in Iraq.

Palestinians calls for Ankara's help against Israel: Palestinian FM Nabil Shaat urged in a letter to FM Abdullah Gul that Ankara use its international prestige and good ties with Tel Aviv to halt the Israeli military operation in Gaza which has claimed scores of lives, "Radikal" reports.

Neve Shalom Synagogue to reopen: The Neve Shalom Synagogue in Istanbul, severely damaged in a fundamentalist suicide bomb attack in November 2003, will be officially re-opened on October 11, Turkish Chief Rabbi said on Tuesday. Senior state officials and domestic and international Jewish community leaders will attend the opening ceremony.

Parliament to Elect New Speaker Today: Turkey's Parliament will elect a new speaker today. Bulent Arinc, the current speaker, has the backing of Prime Minister Erdogan and the AKP leadership for a second term. At the last minute, however, AKP Izmir deputy Serpil Yildiz announced that she would challenge Arinc for the position. The press reports that there is a group of AKP deputies, led by Istanbul deputy Goksal Kucukkali, who are opposed to Arinc. The opposition CHP, which has not nominated a candidate, is expected to abstain during the first round of voting.

Four Arrested in Last Week's Bombings: "Hurriyet" reports that Turkish police arrested 4 people in Ankara in connection with last week's series of sound bombs in Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, and Adana.

MOI Drafts Law to End Village Guard Program: "Cumhuriyet" reports today that the Ministry of Interior has developed a draft law that would put an end to Turkey's village guard program. The village guards were armed by the state to combat PKK terrorism in rural parts of the Southeast. Under the draft law, guards over age 45 and with 10 years of experience would be given retirement, and those under 45 would be paid a financial compensation package to lay down their weapons. The current number of village guards is estimated at 59,000.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: EU-Turkey

"The Day of the Report" Yilmaz Oztuna wrote in the conservative "Turkiye" (10/6): "The EU report will definitely recommend a start to membership negotiations with Turkey. The report will highlight steps toward democratization, but also will mention some shortcomings. . Turkey should immediately work to complete all of the outstanding points and should surprise the EU with its competence. The EU report might contain certain rhetoric to satisfy the anti-Turkey lobby within the Union. However, the real leaders of Europe are well aware of Turkey's geo-strategic importance. Turkey cannot tolerate a 'no' answer from the EU at this stage. Turkey is a secular country, but a 'no' will definitely be taken as an insult to Islam. Such a negative atmosphere will also be a major handicap in the global fight against terrorism. Turkey, a member of NATO for the last 52 years, cannot be isolated from Europe. Isolating Turkey from the EU would be irrational."

"Turkey's Influence in the West" Oral Calislar wrote in the social democrat-opinion maker

Cumhuriyet (10/6): "There is no way to approve the brutal acts of terror carried out by Islamic terror organizations. But these organizations have been successful in gathering up the outrage and sense of hopelessness that exists in their communities. The world's poor and disenfranchised are voicing their fury with terror. Terrorists and those who organize such brutality are abusing the despair and fury felt by people around them. The violence in Iraq is a recent example where the powerful Western world has come to feel helpless. . In this atmosphere, Turkey's stand becomes even more important than before. Turkey, as a predominantly Muslim country but also a pro-Western one, has a role to play in encouraging the Western world to revise its approach. The Western world now attaches some importance to Turkey as it tries to establish a bridge to the Islamic world. . The negotiation process with the EU is very important from this aspect. If Turkey manages to improve its democratic and secular structure during the negotiation process, and if it manages to implement contemporary values in its daily practice, Turkey's importance to the EU and the West will grow even more."

EDELMAN